



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
DIRECTOR

November 22, 2024

Nichole VanNiman  
Beacon Specialized Living Services, Inc.  
Suite 110  
890 N. 10th St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

RE: License #: AS800242668  
Investigation #: 2025A1030009  
Beacon Home at Highland

Dear Ms. VanNiman:

Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. Due to the violations identified in the report, a written corrective action plan is required. The corrective action plan is due 15 days from the date of this letter and must include the following:

- How compliance with each rule will be achieved.
- Who is directly responsible for implementing the corrective action for each violation.
- Specific time frames for each violation as to when the correction will be completed or implemented.
- How continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

Please review the enclosed documentation for accuracy and contact me with any questions. In the event that I am not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the local office at (616) 356-0183.

Sincerely,

Nile Khabeiry, Licensing Consultant  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
Unit 13, 7th Floor  
350 Ottawa, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	AS800242668
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2025A1030009
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	11/06/2024
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	11/06/2024
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	01/05/2025
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Beacon Specialized Living Services, Inc.
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	Suite 110 890 N. 10th St. Kalamazoo, MI 49009
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(269) 427-8400
<b>Administrator:</b>	Kim Howard
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Nichole VanNiman
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Beacon Home at Highland
<b>Facility Address:</b>	56838 48th Avenue Lawrence, MI 49064
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(269) 427-8400
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	01/22/2002
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	07/08/2023
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	07/07/2025
<b>Capacity:</b>	6
<b>Program Type:</b>	PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED MENTALLY ILL AGED ALZHEIMERS

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
A staff member used marijuana with Resident A.	Yes
Additional Findings	No

## III. METHODOLOGY

11/06/2024	Special Investigation Intake 2025A1030009
11/06/2024	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone Interview with referral source
11/07/2024	APS Referral APS referral made
11/07/2024	Contact - Document Received Received and reviewed an Incident Report
11/08/2024	Contact - Face to Face Interview with Veronica Vance
11/13/2024	Contact - Document Received Received and reviewed Geo-Tab report
11/15/2024	Contact - Face to Face Interview with Resident A
11/15/2024	Contact - Face to Face Interview with Lisa Berry
11/15/2024	Contact - Face to Face Interview with Tiffany Van Gessel
11/22/2024	Exit Conference Exit conference by phone

## **ALLEGATION:**

**A staff member used marijuana with Resident A.**

## **INVESTIGATION:**

On 11/6/24, I interviewed the referral source (RS) by phone. The RS reported Resident A disclosed to the facility that she was in the community with direct care staff member (DCSM) Tiffany VanGessel and they drove to a former DCSM Desiree Gillespie's home and smoked marijuana in the facility van. The RS reported that it was Tiffany's idea to use THC with her on 10/28/24.

On 11/7/24, I received and reviewed an Incident Report (IR) dated 10/31/24. The IR indicated that Resident A was experiencing anxiety and disclosed to DCSM Lisa Berry 269-999-0788 that she, Ms. VanGessel and a former DCSM smoked a marijuana cigarette two days ago while at the former staff member's home.

On 11/8/24, I interviewed facility supervisor Veronica Vance at the facility. Ms. Vance reported she is aware of the situation but is unsure if Ms. VanGessel smoked marijuana with Resident A. Ms. Vance confirmed that Ms. VanGessel was with Resident A alone in the community on the day this was alleged to have occurred. Ms. Vance also reported the facility has a policy that DCSM are not allowed to take residents on an unscheduled outing without supervisor approval and Ms. Vangessel did take Resident A on an outing without prior approval.

On 11/13/24, I received a Geo-Tab reported from District Director, Kim Howard regarding the GPS location of the facility van on 10/28/24. The report listed two locations in Hartford, MI. and one location in Lawrence, MI. I spoke with facility supervisor, Veronica Vance who indicated Ms. VanGessel was with Resident A in the van during the time listed on the report. Ms. Vance reported she drove to the locations and indicated that one location was in a residential neighborhood where Ms. VanGessel had reason to be any time. Ms. Vance also reported the address in the residential neighborhood is where Ms. Gillespie lives.

Upon review of the report generated from the tracking device the van left the facility at 4:54pm and drove to Dollar General in Hartford, MI and was there for ten minutes and one second. The van then drove to the residential neighborhood in Hartford, MI. and was there for eleven minutes and twenty-two seconds. The van then drove around the neighborhood for eighteen minutes and fifty-five seconds and stopped at the last address in the residential neighborhood in Hartford, MI. The van then drove to Earl's gas station in Lawrence, MI and was there for three minutes and thirteen seconds. The van then drove back to the facility and arrived at 6:05pm.

On 11/15/24, I interviewed Resident A at the facility. Resident A reported she and Ms. VanGessel were in the community together on 10/28/24 and stopped to see Ms. Gillespie who was staying in a residential neighborhood in Hartford, MI. Resident A

reported Ms. Gillespie was staying in a camper but did not know the exact address. Resident A reported she and Ms. VanGessel got out of the van and went into the camper where Ms. Gillespie gave Ms. VanGessel some marijuana who then “rolled a joint.” Resident A reported they all got back into the facility van a drove around while smoking the joint. Resident A confirmed that she used marijuana with Ms. VanGessel and Ms. Gillespie. Resident A reported Ms. Gillespie asked her not to tell anyone that they used marijuana together.

On 11/15/24, I interviewed direct care staff member (DCSM) Lisa Berry at the facility. Also present was Office of Recipient Rights investigator Kate Koyak. Ms. Berry acknowledged that she and Ms. VanGessel were working first shift on 10/28/24. Ms. Berry reported Ms. VanGessel and Resident A left the facility together in the facility van sometime in the afternoon/evening but did not know the exact time. Ms. Berry reported she was making dinner and received a phone call from Ms. VanGessel who indicated she knows it was taking longer than she thought it would and will be coming back to the facility in a short time. Ms. Berry reported that she then realized that she had no idea where Ms. VanGessel and Resident A were and called her supervisor (Ms. Vance) to ask if the outing was approved as they are not supposed to take residents out of the facility on an unscheduled outing unless it is approved. Ms. Berry reported that Ms., VanGessel and Resident A returned a short time later.

Ms. Berry reported Resident A came to her on 10/31/24 and informed her that she used marijuana with Ms. VanGessel and Ms. Gillespie on 10/28/24. Ms. Berry reported Resident was feeling guilty and thought she was going to disappoint Ms. Berry. Ms. Berry reported Resident A indicated she did not want Ms. Van Gessel to get in trouble. Ms. Berry reported she did not notice the odor of marijuana on Ms. Vangessel on 10/28/24 and did not spend any time with Resident A so did not get the chance to smell her.

On 11/15/24, I DCSM Tiffany VanGessel at the facility. Also present was Office of Recipient Rights investigator Kate Koyak. Ms. Vangessel acknowledged that she was working on 10/28/24 and took Resident A into the community. Ms. VanGessel reported they drove to Dollar General and then drove around and then went to Earls’ gas station before going back to the facility. Ms. VanGessel reported Resident A wanted to talk with her because she was going through a hard time due to one of her friends being discharged from the facility. Ms. VanGessel reported she and Resident A bumped into Ms. Gillespie at the Dollar General store, and they spoke for a few minutes but had no other interactions with her. Ms. VanGessel reported denied using marijuana with Resident A and indicated she knows what Resident A has been though and would not use drugs with her. Ms. VanGessel was asked about being in the residential neighborhood in Hartford, MI. and she reported she and Resident A were talking while driving. Ms. VanGessel denied knowing where Ms. Gillespie lives and was unable to explain why the facility van would have been at her address twice and driving around her neighborhood. Ms. VanGessel continued to indicate that she has no idea where Ms. Gillespie lives and they were in that neighborhood by chance and that she was providing support for Resident A.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.14303</b>	<b>Resident care; licensee responsibilities.</b>
	<b>(2) A licensee shall provide supervision, protection, and personal care as defined in the act and as specified in the resident's written assessment plan.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	It was alleged a staff member used marijuana with Resident A. Based on interviews and review of documentation this violation will be established. On 10/28/24, DCSM Tiffany VanGessel took Resident A on an outing during which time Resident A reported using marijuana with Ms. VanGessel and a former DCSM. Although Ms. VanGessel denies the allegation, a review of the tracking device on the facility van shows the van stopping twice at the former staff members home and being parked outside of the home for 11 minutes. Ms. VanGessel was unable to provide a reasonable explanation as to why she drove and parked outside of the residence, where the former staff member lives, in Hartford where she and Resident A where it was alleged they used marijuana.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

On 11/22/24, I shared the findings of my investigation with licensee designee Nichole VanNiman. Ms. VanNiman acknowledged the findings and agreed to submit a corrective action plan.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION

Contingent upon the submission of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend no change in the current license.

*Nile Khabeiry, LMSW*

11/25/24

Nile Khabeiry  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

*Russell Misiak*

11/27/24

Russell B. Misiak  
Area Manager

Date

